

FULTON

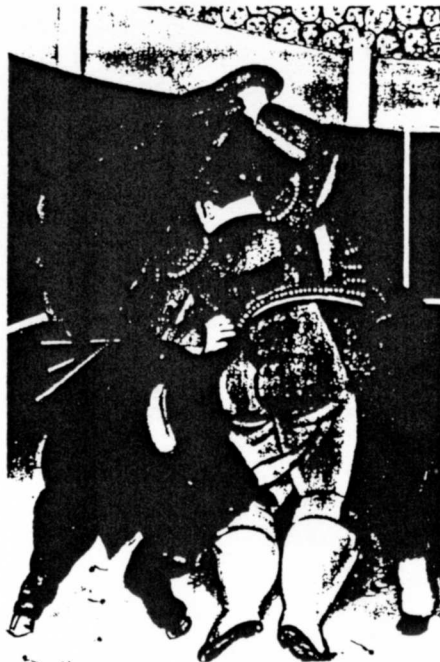
Without doubt, John Fulton (1932-1998) was the taurine artist with whom most Americans were personally familiar, although the prime interest was admittedly in his role as the only U.S. torero to take the alternativa in Spain (Sevilla) and confirm it at Las Ventas. Even so, the erstwhile Philadelphia art student, while pursuing toreo all his life, simultaneously applied himself to drawing and painting. His gallery in Sevilla was (and still is) well known, as are his paintings done using paint mixed with bulls' blood. Fulton created spectacular carteles for corridas, and he illustrated books, including James A. Michener's last novel, *Miracle in Seville*, which had a taurine theme.



John Fulton

BOTERO

Arguably the best-known contemporary taurine artist, Fernando Botero was born in Colombia in 1932. His style is described as "inventive imagination involving phenomenal draftsmanship, dramatic and monumental," which, at bottom, tells us very little. In more down-to-earth phraseology, his stylized paintings seem to the authors of this article to feature colorful figures inflated with air, not unlike the Michelin Man, but much more elaborately rendered and picturesquely attired, and with faces which would look at home on lacquered Russian nesting dolls. Botero has enjoyed great success with his exhibitions and the placement of his work in museums all over the world.



Fernando Botero

OTHERS

If Llopis is the most widely recognized taurine cartel artist of the mid-twentieth century, another Spaniard, **Juan Reus**, is certainly next. His vivid, bold, impressionist style with its brilliant colors, like that of Llopis, seemed part and parcel of Spain's Fiesta Nacional for many years.



"Manolete" by Barnaby Conrad

Personal collection of Hugh Hosch

A knee injury incurred while facing a bull as a young man put and end to **Barnaby Conrad's** dreams of becoming a matador, but the taurine world benefited from his talents nevertheless. He is best known for his many books, including *Matador*, *The Encyclopedia of Bullfighting* and the biography of Carlos Arruza, to name only three, but his fame as a taurine artist runs a close second to his writings. His books (and those of other authors as well) contain his illustrations of the corrida and toros bravos, along with portraits of figuras such as "Manolete" and Juan Belmonte, both of whom he knew personally.

John Groth is well known as a U.S. artist who specializes in taurine themes. But his style differs from those of most of his taurine artist countrymen in that it is more goyesque, a "hairier" approach using many fine, swirling lines combining to create the whole.



John Groth

Tom Lea, a native of El Paso, describes himself first as a writer (*The Brave Bulls*, *The Wonderful Country*), but he is also known for his artwork, including drawings and paintings of taurine scenes, having acquired the "gusano" in midlife somewhat by chance. He has painted portraits of figuras, including "Manolete" and Luis Bello, and he has done illustrations for his taurine novels, as well as for an instructive booklet entitled *Bullfight Manual for Spectators*.